

CLAIMS

We claim:

- [c1] 1. A fireplace installation assembly, comprising:
a furniture unit comprising a decorative front facing portion having an upper portion and a lower portion, the upper portion having an enlarged receptacle therein, and the lower portion adapted to engage a support surface; and
a heat-generating fireplace unit positioned in the enlarged receptacle in the upper portion of the furniture unit, the fireplace unit having a firebox configured to contain a fire, and having a viewing portion that provides visibility of the fire in the firebox from exterior of the fireplace unit.
- [c2] 2. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit is a direct vent, gas-burning fireplace assembly.
- [c3] 3. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit is a gas-burning fireplace having an outer housing that contains the firebox, and a burner assembly in the firebox.
- [c4] 4. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit is an electric fireplace.
- [c5] 5. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fire is a simulated fire.
- [c6] 6. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the furniture unit includes a substantially horizontal support portion connected to the front facing portion

adjacent to the receptacle, the fireplace unit being supported on the support portion.

[c7] 7. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the furniture unit is a tall self-supporting unit positionable on the ground in a standing configuration.

[c8] 8. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the lower portion of the furniture unit is a display area.

[c9] 9. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the furniture unit is one of a book case, an entertainment center, an armoire, a cabinet, a hutch, a dresser, and a storage area.

[c10] 10. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the firebox of the fireplace unit has an interior volume of a first shape, and the fireplace unit further includes a surround contained in the firebox and shaped to define a second volume that has a second shape different from the first shape.

[c11] 11. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit includes a surround in the firebox defining a heat shield away from the firebox.

[c12] 12. The assembly of claim 10 wherein the surround includes a decorative inner surface in the firebox and partially surrounding the burner assembly, the decorative inner surface being visible from a position exterior of the furniture unit.

[c13] 13. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit includes a self-supporting, contoured surround removably contained in the firebox and spaced apart from walls of the firebox.

[c14] 14. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit includes a heat exchanger passageway between the outer housing and the firebox, and a blower coupled to the heat exchanger passageway.

[c15] 15. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the fireplace unit includes a semi-dome shaped surround forming a heat shield to initially direct heat forwardly away from the back of the firebox.

[c16] 16. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the upper portion of the furniture unit includes a chimney passageway and the chimney extends through the chimney passage.

[c17] 17. A fireplace installation assembly connectable to a gas source, comprising:

a furniture unit comprising a lower cabinet portion and an upper front face portion extending from the lower cabinet portion, the upper front face portion having an enlarged receptacle therein; and

a fireplace unit positioned in the enlarged receptacle in the upper front face portion of the furniture unit, the fireplace unit having an outer housing supported by lower cabinet portion, a firebox contained in the outer housing, and a viewing portion adjacent to the firebox that provides visibility into the firebox for visibility of a fire therein.

[c18] 18. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the furniture unit is a corner-mounted unit shaped and sized to fit into a corner of a room.

[c19] 19. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the upper front face portion is integrally connected to the lower cabinet portion.

- [c20] 20. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the firebox of the fireplace unit has an interior volume of a first shape, and the fireplace unit further includes a surround in the firebox and shaped to define a second volume that has a second shape different from the first shape.
- [c21] 21. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the fireplace unit includes a surround in the firebox defining a heat shield away from the firebox.
- [c22] 22. The assembly of claim 21 wherein the surround includes a decorative inner surface visible through the viewing portion from a position exterior of the furniture unit.
- [c23] 23. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the fireplace unit includes a self-supporting, contoured surround removably placed in the firebox and spaced apart from walls of the firebox.
- [c24] 24. The assembly of claim 17 wherein the fireplace unit includes a semi-dome shaped heat shield in the firebox and configured to initially direct heat away from the back of the firebox.